3/22/88 S 3465-2

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330
(207) 289-2271

BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

January 1988

A Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

LABOR MARKET SUCCESS CONTINUES TO BE LINKED TO EDUCATION

Education continues to be a key determinant of labor market success, according to national statistics released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. In March 1987, college graduates had a very low rate of unemployment--2.3 percent--and much higher rates of labor force participation than persons with less education.

The educational level of the adult labor force (25 to 64 years old) is continuing to rise; this is particularly evident in the increase in the proportion of workers--particularly women--with four years of college or more. One out of four members of the labor force now has a college degree, and women represent 40 percent of college-educated workers.

College graduates have the highest rates of labor force participation--whether male or female, white, black, or Hispanic. Overall, 88 percent of all college graduates (25 to 64 years old) were in the labor force in March 1987. In contrast, the participation rate for persons with a high-school education was 77 percent, and that for persons who completed less than four years of high school was 61 percent. Women with a college degree had a labor force participation rate of 80 percent, 14 points less than that for college-educated men.

Black and Hispanic workers remain much less likely than white workers to have a college degree. About one out of four white workers have attended college for four years or more, compared with one out of seven blacks and one out of nine Hispanics. Whites also are more likely to have completed high school. Fourteen percent of white workers drop out of high school, compared with 24 percent of black and 40 percent of Hispanic workers.

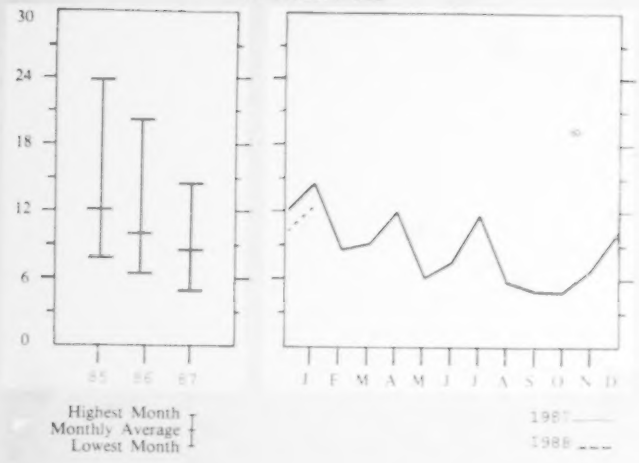
In March 1987, as in other years, the lowest rates of unemployment were recorded by college graduates. The unemployment rate for college graduates (25 to 64 years of age) was 2.3 percent, compared with 4.5 percent for those with one to three years of college, 6.3 percent for high school graduates, and 11.1 percent for high school dropouts.

College graduates are heavily concentrated in managerial and professional specialty occupations. Three out of four professional specialty workers and almost half of all executives, administrators, and managers are college graduates.

SEE TABLE ON PAGE 2

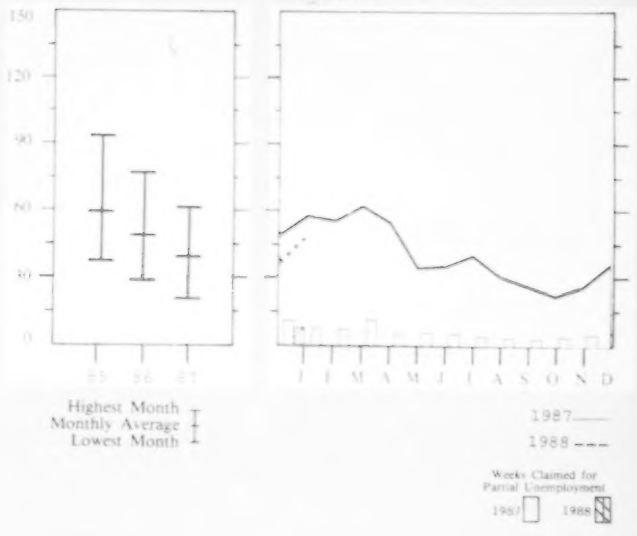
UI Initial Claims

in Thousands



UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed

in Thousands



Labor Force Status of Persons 25 to 64 Years Old by Years of School Completed and Sex
United States, March 1977 and March 1987

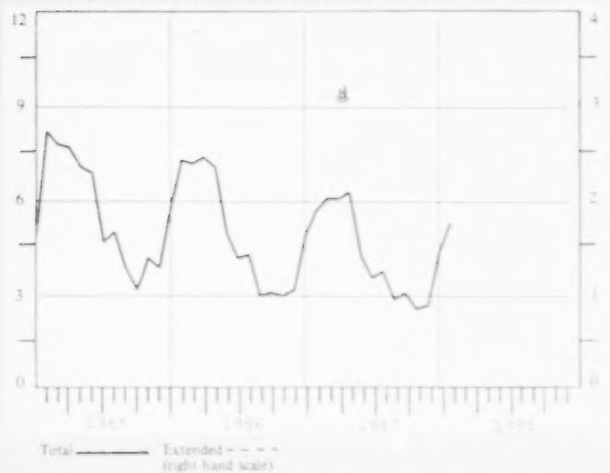
Labor force status and years of school completed	Total		Men		Women	
	1977	1987	1977	1987	1977	1987
Civilian labor force distribution	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 4 years of high school	25.0	14.9	26.4	16.8	22.9	12.5
4 years of high school	39.3	40.2	35.4	37.1	45.3	44.0
1 to 3 years of college	15.6	19.7	16.0	18.9	15.1	20.7
4 years of college or more	20.1	25.3	22.2	27.2	16.8	22.8
Labor force participation rate	71.8	77.2	90.1	88.8	54.8	66.2
Less than 4 years of high school	61.7	60.9	81.8	77.2	43.2	44.9
4 years of high school	71.7	76.6	92.3	89.6	56.6	66.4
1 to 3 years of college	76.9	81.9	93.2	91.9	60.0	72.7
4 years of college or more	84.9	88.1	95.8	94.2	69.1	80.3
Unemployment rate	5.7	5.7	5.2	6.0	6.4	5.2
Less than 4 years of high school	8.9	11.1	8.4	11.2	9.6	10.9
4 years of high school	5.5	6.3	5.0	6.7	6.1	5.8
1 to 3 years of college	4.9	4.5	4.4	5.0	5.6	4.0
4 years of college or more	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.5	3.5	2.1

Selected Employment Security Activities

MAINE JOB SERVICE

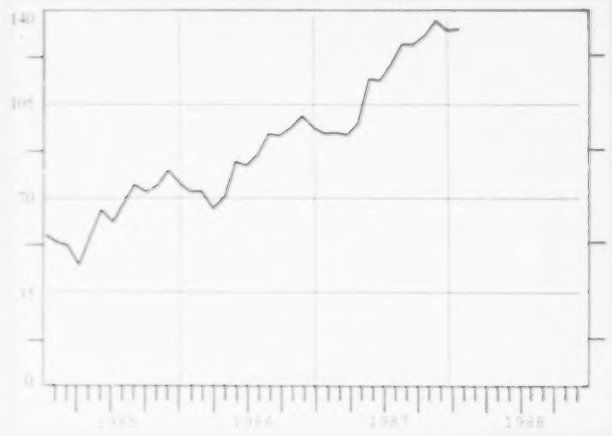
UI Benefit Payments
in Millions

(Total Includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance in Millions

(End of Month)



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

in Thousands

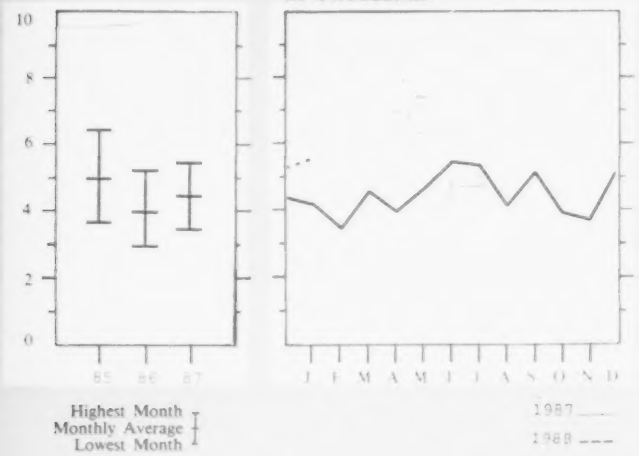
ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/	502.6	517.9	474.1	123.1	128.0	117.0	39.7	40.0	38.1
Total Manufacturing	106.1	106.6	103.6	16.2	16.4	16.5	10.4	10.4	9.9
Durable Goods	49.8	50.1	46.8	7.9	7.9	8.1	2.8	2.8	2.8
Lumber and Wood Products 2/	13.6	14.1	14.1	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3
Primary and Fabricated Metals	7.5	7.5	7.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Machinery, except Electrical	4.5	4.5	4.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	11.5	11.3	10.1	3.3	3.3	3.4	0.8	0.8	0.8
Transportation Equipment 3/	11.3	11.5	10.8	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other Durable Goods 4/	4.8	5.2	4.2	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.4
Nondurable Goods	56.3	56.5	57.0	8.3	8.5	8.4	7.6	7.6	7.1
Food and Kindred Products	7.3	7.2	7.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Textile Mill Products	6.8	6.9	6.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.3	1.3	1.2
Apparel	3.1	3.2	4.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.1	0.1	0.1
Paper and Allied Products	16.9	17.0	17.1	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.5	0.6	0.5
Printing and Publishing	5.4	5.5	5.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.7	0.7	0.6
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	3.6	3.6	3.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.7	1.7	1.6
Leather and Leather Products	12.3	12.1	11.5	1.6	1.7	1.4	2.3	2.2	2.2
Footwear (except Rubber)	10.1	10.1	9.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.8	1.8	1.8
Other Leather Products	2.2	2.0	2.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.5	0.4	0.4
Other Nondurable Goods 5/	0.9	1.1	1.0	4.7	4.8	5.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Nonmanufacturing	397.5	411.3	370.5	106.9	111.6	100.5	29.3	29.6	28.2
Mining	0.2	0.1	0.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Contract Construction	29.9	31.7	26.0	9.3	9.8	7.4	2.1	2.3	1.8
Transportation and Public Utilities	20.2	20.3	19.9	6.0	6.0	5.7	1.4	1.4	1.4
Wholesale Trade	24.4	24.6	22.6	9.7	9.7	9.2	2.0	2.0	1.9
Retail Trade	101.4	106.7	91.2	25.8	28.1	25.9	7.7	7.8	7.4
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	25.1	25.1	23.9	12.3	12.6	11.6	2.2	2.2	2.2
Services	108.2	109.3	100.7	29.1	29.1	26.5	10.0	10.0	9.7
Government	89.2	93.5	86.1	14.7	16.3	14.2	3.9	3.9	3.8
Federal	18.5	18.9	17.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.3
State and Local 6/	70.7	74.6	68.3	12.8	14.4	12.3	3.6	3.6	3.5
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Employment figures relate to full - and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/ Lumber and wood products and furniture and fixtures are combined in the Portland and Lewiston series. 3/ Transportation equipment and instruments are combined in the Lewiston series. 4/ Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 32, 38, 39; Lewiston - 32, 39. 5/ Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; Lewiston - 23, 28, 29. 6/ Regular teachers are included in summer months, whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. *Less than 50. (d) Nondisclosure item.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

New Applications For Work

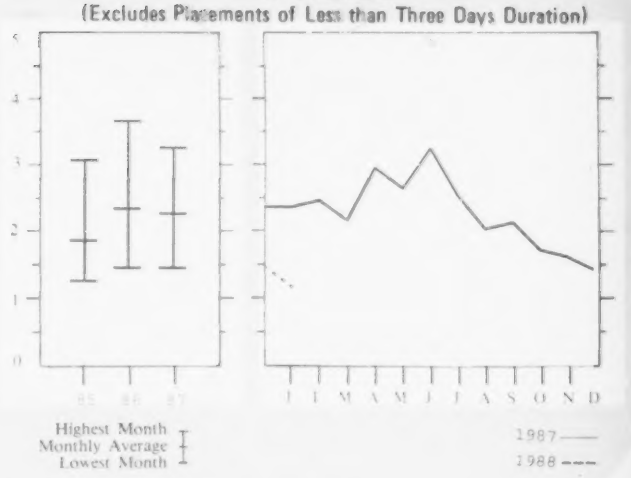
in Thousands



Nonfarm Placements

in Thousands

(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	1987	1986	1985
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	$363.67	$370.12	$359.10	41.0	41.4	40.9	$8.87	$8.94	$8.78	$8.77	$8.65	$8.40
Durable Goods	362.09	361.24	350.28	42.8	42.7	41.7	8.46	8.46	8.40	8.32	8.52	8.46
Lumber and Wood Products	335.96	338.09	318.24	39.9	40.5	40.8	8.42	8.37	7.80	7.82	7.74	8.06
Primary and Fabricated Metals	406.80	399.75	387.47	44.4	42.7	43.1	9.15	9.35	8.99	8.94	8.58	8.25
Machinery, except Electrical	452.48	477.74	405.06	50.5	53.2	43.0	8.96	8.98	9.42	9.20	9.62	9.11
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	340.47	321.88	316.72	42.4	40.9	39.3	8.03	7.87	8.11	8.03	7.94	7.57
Other Durable Goods	370.23	376.26	365.44	43.0	43.7	43.8	8.61	8.61	8.80	8.60	9.41	9.50
Nondurable Goods	364.31	378.82	366.27	39.3	40.4	40.2	9.27	9.40	9.11	9.18	8.76	8.31
Food and Kindred Products	252.45	276.02	254.89	34.3	37.0	35.5	7.36	7.46	7.18	7.16	7.00	6.63
Textile Mill Products	300.11	293.96	306.13	40.5	39.3	42.4	7.41	7.48	7.22	7.35	7.04	6.64
Apparel	211.90	220.54	211.39	35.2	35.4	36.7	6.02	6.23	5.76	5.92	5.73	5.83
Paper and Allied Products	585.61	604.00	596.27	43.8	44.8	44.9	13.37	13.50	13.28	13.43	12.70	12.25
Leather and Leather Products	242.35	250.80	228.64	37.4	38.0	36.7	6.48	6.60	6.23	6.34	6.05	5.93
Other Nondurable Goods	327.64	339.73	329.97	38.5	40.3	39.9	8.51	8.43	8.27	8.28	8.00	7.51
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	378.42	389.62	364.02	42.0	43.1	39.1	9.01	9.04	9.31	9.13	9.17	8.90
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	311.89	315.47	287.89	40.4	41.4	39.6	7.72	7.62	7.27	7.40	7.19	6.78

Female Labor Force in Maine

in Thousands

ITEM	This Month 1/	Last Month 2/	Year Ago 2/
Labor Force	INA	262.5	243.4
Unemployed	INA	10.0	16.0
(Percent)	INA	3.8%	6.6%
Resident Employed	INA	252.5	227.4

U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec
(1982=1984=100)	115.7	115.4	111.2	115.4

Percent Change for Past Month	+0.3%
Percent Change from Last December	+0.3%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+4.0%

1/ Preliminary estimates 2/ Revised

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

in Thousands

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT Number			UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
MAINE-Statewide	592.5	589.5	549.8	560.0	567.9	515.6	32.5	21.6	34.2	5.5	3.7	6.2
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	41,000	43,500	40,700	39,100	42,200	38,100	1,900	1,300	2,600	4.6	3.0	6.4
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	42,600	41,700	40,200	40,000	39,800	37,300	2,600	1,900	2,900	6.1	4.6	7.2
Portland MSA	126,200	126,200	117,200	122,600	125,800	113,500	3,600	2,400	3,700	2.9	1.9	3.2
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA 3/	n/a	131,700	122,800	n/a	129,500	119,000	n/a	2,200	3,800	n/a	1.7	3.1
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	34,000	33,420	31,040	32,340	32,260	29,320	1,660	1,160	1,720	4.9	3.5	5.5
Bath-Brunswick	28,580	27,790	26,670	27,380	27,070	25,710	1,200	720	960	4.2	2.6	3.6
Belfast	11,680	11,640	10,720	10,560	10,730	9,550	1,120	910	1,170	9.6	7.8	10.9
Biddeford	26,890	26,040	24,940	25,690	25,300	23,390	1,200	740	1,550	4.5	2.8	6.2
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	13,390	13,300	11,620	12,660	12,820	10,870	730	480	750	5.5	3.6	6.5
Calais-Eastport	14,460	14,000	12,690	12,610	12,960	11,140	1,850	1,040	1,550	12.8	7.4	12.2
Caribou-Presque Isle	21,650	21,430	20,430	19,620	19,710	18,230	2,030	1,720	2,200	9.4	8.0	10.8
Central Penobscot	2,790	2,690	2,620	2,560	2,570	2,390	230	120	240	8.2	4.5	9.2
Dover-Foxcroft	7,020	6,870	6,610	6,510	6,590	6,080	510	280	530	7.3	4.1	8.0
Ellsworth	21,910	21,550	19,470	19,690	20,400	17,490	2,220	1,150	1,980	10.1	5.3	10.2
Farmington	12,490	12,660	11,680	11,890	12,170	10,890	600	490	790	4.8	3.9	6.8
Fort Kent-Allagash	5,300	5,280	5,090	4,860	5,030	4,640	440	250	450	8.3	4.7	8.8
Greenville	1,590	1,440	1,300	1,440	1,340	1,230	150	100	70	9.4	6.9	5.4
Houlton	6,190	6,040	5,680	5,820	5,820	5,230	370	220	450	6.0	3.6	7.9
Kittery-York 3/	30,090	30,120	27,750	29,330	29,730	27,120	760	390	630	2.5	1.3	2.3
Lincoln-Howland	5,580	5,470	5,070	5,310	5,230	4,680	270	240	390	4.8	4.4	7.7
Livermore Falls	4,200	4,480	4,060	3,910	4,190	3,680	290	290	380	6.9	6.5	9.4
Madawaska-Van Buren	3,930	3,750	3,570	3,480	3,420	3,100	450	330	470	11.5	8.8	13.2
Millinocket-East Millinocket	4,180	4,190	4,100	3,800	3,880	3,760	380	310	340	9.1	7.4	8.3
Norway-Paris	12,680	12,130	10,960	11,920	11,720	10,180	760	410	780	6.0	3.4	7.1
Patten-Island Falls	2,350	2,320	2,140	2,170	2,160	1,970	180	160	170	7.7	6.9	7.9
Rockland	18,290	18,070	16,770	17,210	17,520	15,650	1,080	550	1,120	5.9	3.0	6.7
Rumford	8,820	8,480	8,280	8,140	8,110	7,610	680	370	670	7.7	4.4	8.1
Sanford	16,640	15,850	14,840	15,740	15,400	13,840	900	450	1,000	5.4	2.9	6.7
Sebago Lakes Region	10,900	10,820	10,350	10,490	10,550	9,860	410	270	490	3.8	2.5	4.7
Skowhegan	22,610	21,840	21,220	20,810	20,590	19,280	1,800	1,250	1,940	8.0	5.7	9.1
Southwest Penobscot	10,530	10,330	9,870	9,680	9,670	8,960	850	660	910	8.1	6.4	9.2
Waterville	23,950	24,120	22,150	22,630	23,250	20,790	1,320	870	1,360	5.5	3.6	6.1
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES												
Connecticut	n/a	1,774.3	1,733.8	n/a	1,718.7	1,665.1	n/a	55.6	68.7	n/a	3.2	4.0
Massachusetts	3,107.0	3,087.0	3,029.0	2,989.0	3,006.0	2,905.0	118.0	80.0	124.0	3.8	2.6	4.1
New Hampshire	n/a	593.1	556.4	n/a	580.0	539.4	n/a	13.1	16.5	n/a	2.2	3.0
Rhode Island	520.4	525.3	508.7	499.7	506.9	486.5	20.7	18.4	22.2	4.0	3.5	4.4
Vermont	n/a	302.8	293.5	n/a	292.2	278.5	n/a	10.7	15.0	n/a	3.5	5.1
NEW ENGLAND STATES	n/a	6,773.1	6,671.2	n/a	6,671.7	6,390.4	n/a	201.4	280.8	n/a	3.0	4.2
UNITED STATES 4/	119,742	120,206	117,703	112,139	113,679	109,084	7,603	6,526	8,620	6.3	5.4	7.3

MSA-Metropolitan Statistical Area

Note

n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing.
Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding.

Footnotes

1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and reconciled from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.

2/ Current month - figures preliminary; last month and year ago figures revised.

3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

4/ National estimates based on a sample of household visits; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures reported.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Mid-Month Insured Unemployment (Less Partials)

ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Number of Continued Week Claimants	10,039	6,205	11,971	1,009	588	1,154	662	380	991
Insured Unemployment Rate *	2.1	1.3	2.6	0.9	0.5	1.1	2.3	1.6	2.8

* Should not be confused with insured unemployment rates as defined in the Employment Security Law.

Selected Characteristics Of Unemployment Insurance Claimants

REGULAR PROGRAM

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY OCCUPATION

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Professional, Technical, and Managerial	6.0	9.7	6.7
Clerical and Sales	13.0	14.9	11.3
Service	13.0	14.1	12.5
Agricultural, Fishery, Forestry, and Related	2.5	2.6	2.8
Processing	4.4	5.8	6.0
Machine Trades	8.5	10.2	11.3
Benchwork	6.5	8.1	10.9
Structural Work	26.3	19.0	20.1
Miscellaneous	17.1	14.8	16.4

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Total under 40	57.2	56.6	58.0
Under 22	4.5	5.6	4.0
22-24	9.2	8.5	9.8
25-34	31.3	29.9	31.9
35-39	12.2	12.6	12.3
Total 40 and Over	42.8	43.4	42.0
40-44	11.1	11.8	9.8
45-54	16.4	16.7	15.5
55-64	11.5	11.6	11.9
65 and Over	3.8	3.3	4.8

The Bureau of Employment Security is affiliated with the U.S. Employment and Training Administration and is a Federal-State Statistical Program Cooperative Representative of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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LABOR
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330

BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

January 1988

U.S. MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
LAB 449

MAINE JOB SERVICE

"For Qualified Workers Contact Your Local Bureau of Employment Security Job Service Office"

Labor Market Information Services